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Confirmation Copy to Follow: No

SUBJECT **U.S. Patent Application No. 09/834,651**
Inventors: Takeshi FUKUDA et al.
Attorney Docket No. 05453.0037-00000

MESSAGE

Please find attached the claim set, in both marked-up and clean versions. Thank you!

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Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~A composition comprising flaky~~ Flaky α-alumina particles having an average major diameter of 2.0 to 25 μm, an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.2 μm, an aspect ratio, expressed by average major diameter / average thickness, of 55 to 2000, ~~produced using~~ wherein the particles are produced by employing a source material that will introduce phosphate ions~~, and~~ and will result in a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, when the weight of the phosphoric compound used is ~~converted to the weight of~~ expressed by weight in terms of P_2O_5.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (previously presented): The flaky α-alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

Claims 4-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A cosmetic comprising flaky α-alumina particles having an average major diameter of 2.0 to 25 μm, an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.2 μm, and an aspect ratio, expressed by average major

diameter / average thickness, of 55 to 2000, wherein the particles are produced by employing a source material that will introduce phosphate ions and will result in a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, when the weight of the phosphoric compound used is ~~converted to the weight of~~ expressed by weight in terms of P_2O_5.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The cosmetic according to claim 6, in which the flaky α-alumina particles have an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.1 μm and an average particle diameter, in terms of half the sum of the particle diameter in major axis and particle diameter in the minor axis, of 1.0 to 15 μm.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The cosmetic according to claim [[8]] 6, wherein the flaky α-alumina particles are present in an amount of 1% to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the cosmetic.

Claims 9-11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (previously presented): The cosmetic according to claim 6, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

Claim 1: Flaky α-alumina particles having an average major diameter of 2.0 to 25 μm, an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.2 μm, an aspect ratio, expressed by average major diameter / average thickness, of 55 to 2000, wherein the particles are produced by employing a source material that will introduce phosphate ions and will result in a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the weight of the alumina particles, when the weight of the phosphoric compound used is expressed by weight in terms of P_2O_5.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3: The flaky α-alumina particles according to claim 1, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.

Claims 4-5 (canceled).

Claim 6: A cosmetic comprising flaky α-alumina particles having an average major diameter of 2.0 to 25 μm, an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.2 μm, and an aspect ratio, expressed by average major diameter / average thickness, of 55 to 2000, wherein the particles are produced by employing a source material that will introduce phosphate ions and will result in a phosphoric compound present in an amount of about 0.2% to about 5.0% by weight, relative to the

weight of the alumina particles, when the weight of the phosphoric compound used is expressed by weight in terms of P_2O_5.

Claim 7: The cosmetic according to claim 6, in which the flaky α-alumina particles have an average thickness of 0.01 to 0.1 μm and an average particle diameter, in terms of half the sum of the particle diameter in major axis and particle diameter in the minor axis, of 1.0 to 15 μm.

Claim 8: The cosmetic according to claim 6, wherein the flaky α-alumina particles are present in an amount of 1% to 90% by weight, based on the weight of the cosmetic.

Claims 9-11 (canceled).

Claim 12: The cosmetic according to claim 6, wherein an isoelectric point of the alumina particles at which zeta-potential is 0 is at a pH of 4 to 8.